

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1

In the Matter of:

PRECISION LUMBER, INC.,
576 Buffalo Road
Wentworth, New Hampshire 03282

Respondent.

Docket Number:
CWA-01-2006-0077

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
FINAL ORDER**

This Consent Agreement and Final Order ("CAFO") is issued under the authority vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") by Section 309(g) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b) of EPA's "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," 40 C.F.R. Part 22 ("Part 22 Rules").

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. EPA initiated this proceeding against Precision Lumber, Inc., ("Respondent") pursuant to Section 309(g) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), by filing an administrative Complaint ("Complaint"), Docket No. CWA-01-2006-0077, on May 15, 2006.
2. The complete factual and jurisdictional basis for proposing the assessment of a civil penalty is set forth in the Complaint and is incorporated herein by reference.
3. Pursuant to Section 309(g)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(1), and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.38(b), the State of New Hampshire has been given an opportunity to consult with EPA regarding the assessment of the administrative penalty for CWA violations against Respondent.
4. Section 309(g)(4)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. 1319(g)(4)(A), provides that, prior to issuing an order assessing a penalty under Section 309(g) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), EPA must provide public notice of, and reasonable opportunity to, comment on, the proposed issuance of such order. EPA has satisfied this requirement by providing public notice of, and reasonable opportunity to comment on, the proposed penalty from May 17, 2006 through June 15, 2006. EPA has received no public comments regarding this matter.

II. CONSENT AGREEMENT

5. Respondent stipulates that EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter alleged in the Complaint.

6. Respondent waives any defenses it might have as to jurisdiction and venue, and, without admitting or denying the facts and violations alleged in the Complaint, consents to the terms of this CAFO.

Waiver of Rights

7. Respondent hereby waives its right to request a judicial or administrative hearing on any issue of law or fact set forth in the Complaint, and consents to the issuance of the Final Order included with this Consent Agreement without further adjudication.

Penalty

8. Complainant proposes, and Respondent consents to, the assessment of a civil penalty of THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$35,000), plus interest, pursuant to the following schedule:
- a. \$8,750 shall be due within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this CAFO (as described in Paragraph 21 below);
 - b. \$9,613 (i.e. \$8,750 principle, plus \$863 in interest) shall be due within 180 calendar days of the effective date of this CAFO.
 - c. \$9,459 (i.e. \$8,750 principle, plus \$709 in interest) shall be due within 365 calendar days of the effective date of this CAFO;
 - d. \$9,095 (i.e. \$8,750 principle, plus \$345 in interest) shall be due within 545 calendar days of the effective date of this CAFO.
 - e. Acceleration Clause: if Respondent fails to make any payment as described above, all remaining installments shall become immediately due and

payable as of the missed payment date. Interest on such unpaid penalty amounts shall accrue from the missed payment date.

Payment Terms

9. The parties have agreed to a settlement on the following terms. In agreeing to the penalty described in Paragraph 8, EPA has taken into account the statutory penalty factors at Section 309(g)(3) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(3).
10. Respondent shall make each payment by a cashier's or certified check, payable to the order of "Treasurer, United States of America" and referencing the title and docket number of the action ("In the Matter of Precision Lumber, Inc., CWA-01-2006-0077"), to:

EPA Region 1
P.O. Box 360197M
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15251

11. Respondent shall simultaneously submit copies of the penalty payment check to:

Wanda Rivera
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
One Congress Street, Suite 1100, RAA
Boston, MA 02114-2023

and

Jeffrey Kopf
Office of Environmental Stewardship
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
One Congress Street, Suite 1100, SEL
Boston, MA 02114-2023

General Provisions

12. Pursuant to Section 309(g) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g), a failure by Respondent to pay the penalty assessed by this CAFO in full by the payment due dates shall subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalty, plus interest at current prevailing rates from the date of this CAFO. The rate of interest assessed shall be at the rate set forth in 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d), promulgated under 31 U.S.C. § 3717. Any person who fails to pay on a timely basis the amount of an assessed penalty shall be required to pay in addition to such amount and interest, attorney's fees, costs for collection proceedings, and a quarterly nonpayment penalty for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such nonpayment penalty shall be in an amount equal to 20 percent of the aggregate amount of such person's penalties and nonpayment penalties which are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter. In any such collection action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the penalty shall not be subject to review.
13. The penalty specified in Paragraph 8 above, shall represent civil penalties assessed by EPA and shall not be deductible for purposes of Federal taxes.
14. The provisions of this CAFO shall apply to and bind Respondent and its officers, directors, officials, agents, and representatives.
15. Except as described in Paragraph 12 above, each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys fees in this proceeding.
16. Issuance of this CAFO constitutes a full and complete settlement by EPA of all claims for judicial or administrative civil penalties pursuant to Sections 309(d) or


(g) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d) or (g), for all past violations of the CWA specifically alleged in the Complaint referenced in Paragraph 1.

17. This Consent Agreement shall not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of the requirements of the Act of any regulation promulgated thereunder, shall not relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of Federal, state, and local law, and shall not be a defense to any actions subsequently commenced pursuant to such laws.
18. This Consent Agreement shall not limit the authority of the United States to enforce the underlying legal requirements of this administrative penalty assessment, whether administratively or judicially, pursuant to Sections 309(a), (b), and (c) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(a), (b), and (c), or Section 504 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1364.

19. Each undersigned representative of the parties to this Consent Agreement certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into the terms and conditions of, and legally bind that party to, this Consent Agreement.


STIPULATED AND AGREED:

For RESPONDENT


Joseph Robertie
President
Precision Lumber, Inc.

Date: 9-13-06

For U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY


Stephen S. Perkins, Director
Office of Environmental Stewardship
U.S. EPA, Region 1

Date: SEPT 15, 2006

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER
Docket No's. CWA-01-2006-0077


- Page 7 -

US EPA Region 1
One Congress St., Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023

FINAL ORDER

20. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b), the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order.
21. Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the referenced Consent Agreement. This Final Order shall become effective 30 days from today pursuant to Section 309(g)(5) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(5).

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



Sharon T. Wells
Regional Judicial Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 1

Date: 9/15/06

In the Matter of: Precision Lumber, Inc.
CWA-01-2006-0077

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER was sent to the following persons, in the manner specified on the date below:

Original and one copy
hand delivered:

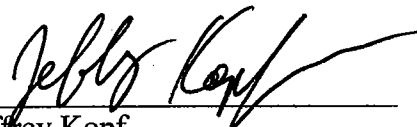
Regional Hearing Clerk (RAA)
U.S. EPA, Region I
One Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Copy by certified mail,
Return receipt requested

Connie L. Rakowsky
Orr & Reno
One Eagle Square, PO Box 3550
Concord, NH 03302-3550

Date:

9/18/06



Jeffrey Kopf
Office of Environmental
Stewardship (SEL)
U.S. EPA, Region I
One Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023
tel: (617) 918-1796
fax: (617) 918-1809
e-mail: kopf.jeff@epa.gov